AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

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1. (Original) A method for executing a query against a database on a data storage device connected to a computer, the method comprising:

modifying the query to replace one or more selected clauses with a false clause; executing the modified query with the false clause; and retrieving metadata from the result set obtained by executing the modified query.

- 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the query comprises a SELECT statement.
- 3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the SELECT statement is not a SELECT INTO statement.
- 4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the selected clauses comprise WHERE clauses.
- 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the selected clauses comprise GROUP BY clauses.
 - 6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein modifying the query comprises:

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generating a list of modified queries, wherein each modified query has one or more selected clauses replaced with a false clause; and

executing each modified query until one executes successfully.

- 7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein a query executes successfully if it executes without an exception.
- 8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the metadata comprises column type data for the result set.
- 9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising converting the column type data to JAVA types.
- 10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising generating a SQLJ iterator with parameters having the JAVA types.
- 11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining whether the query requires a SQLJ iterator.
 - 12. (Original) An apparatus for executing a query, comprising:
 a computer connected a data storage device that stores a database containing data;



one or more computer programs, performed by the computer, for modifying the query to replace one or more selected clauses with a false clause, executing the modified query with the false clause, and retrieving metadata from the result set obtained by executing the modified query.

- 13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the query comprises a SELECT statement.
- 14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the SELECT statement is not a SELECT INTO statement.
- 15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the selected clauses comprise WHERE clauses.
- 16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the selected clauses comprise GROUP BY clauses.
- 17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein modifying the query comprises: generating a list of modified queries, wherein each modified query has one or more selected clauses replaced with a false clause; and

executing each modified query until one executes successfully.

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- 18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein a query executes successfully if it executes without an exception.
- 19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the metadata comprises column type data for the result set.
- 20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising converting the column type data to JAVA types.
- 21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising generating a SQLJ iterator with parameters having the JAVA types.
- 22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising determining whether the query requires a SQLJ iterator.
- 23. (Original) An article of manufacture comprising a computer program carrier readable by computers and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer for executing a query against a database on a data storage device connected to the computer, comprising:

modifying the query to replace one or more selected clauses with a false clause; executing the modified query with the false clause; and retrieving metadata from the result set obtained by executing the modified query.

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- 24. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 23, wherein the query comprises a SELECT statement.
- 25. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 24, wherein the SELECT statement is not a SELECT INTO statement.
- 26. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 23, wherein the selected clauses comprise WHERE clauses.
- 27. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 23, wherein the selected clauses comprise GROUP BY clauses.
- 28. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 23, wherein modifying the query comprises:

generating a list of modified queries, wherein each modified query has one or more selected clauses replaced with a false clause; and

executing each modified query until one executes successfully.

29. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 28, wherein a query executes successfully if it executes without an exception.

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- 30. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 23, wherein the metadata comprises column type data for the result set.
- 31. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 2330, further comprising converting the column type data to JAVA types.
- 32. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 31, further comprising generating a SQLJ iterator with parameters having the JAVA types.
- 33. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 23, further comprising determining whether the query requires a SQLJ iterator.